

December 1, 1947.

Dr. C.D. Darlington,  
John Innes Horticultural Institution,  
Mastyn Road, Merton Pk.,  
London, SW 19, ENGLAND

Dear Dr. Darlington,

At long last, I am able to write to you with the enclosed manuscript "Problems in Microbial Genetics" as a material and spiritual backing. It has been a much tougher job than I had ever anticipated to put this together, particularly with the complications of moving to this university. I hope you will forgive me for the appearance of the manuscript, particularly the bibliography, but we have had some difficulty in getting office help, and a retyping would have meant a delay of many weeks. The manuscript should be clear enough to the printers.

I have complied with your excellent suggestion of including a table or two, and a full bibliography, but I haven't been able to write a summary, and don't quite see the point of one in this kind of paper. The table of contents should suffice.

Developments in the field of microbial genetics have been so rapid that there is a real necessity for me to encourage its publication within a reasonable length of time, or else plan on appending a brief(one-page) addendum before the final printing. Every issue of many journals has something that might modify a statement.

If you could acknowledge receipt of the script by airmail as soon as possible, it will be a great reassurance to me, and will enable me to efface my only other copy of the bibliography, in the form of a dictaphone record.

My best regards to Mather.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Ass't Professor of Genetics